

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Naotaka Ando  
Appl. No.: 10/597,168  
Conf. No.: 7075  
Filed: July 13, 2006  
Title: INFORMATION RETRIEVING SYSTEM, INFORMATION RETRIEVING METHOD, INFORMATION RETRIEVING APPARATUS, INFORMATION RETRIEVING PROGRAM, IMAGE RECOGNIZING APPARATUS, IMAGE RECOGNIZING METHOD, IMAGE RECOGNIZING PROGRAM, AND SALES SYSTEM  
Art Unit: Unknown  
Examiner: Unknown  
Docket No.: 115565-010

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Sir:

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration in the above-identified application. In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 37 C.F.R. 1.97, and 37 C.F.R. 1.98, Applicants request that a citation and examination of the references cited on the enclosed PTO-1449 form be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States patent. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98, copies of any cited foreign patent documents and non-patent documents are enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☒ [X] Within three months of filing of a national application; within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application; before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination.
- ☐ [ ] After the period specified above, but before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application and is accompanied by one of:
  - ☐ [ ] Payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p); or
  - ☐ [ ] The certification specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) follows.
- ☐ [ ] After the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in

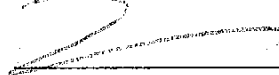
the application and is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) and the certification specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) follows.

- ☐ The undersigned counsel for applicant(s) hereby certifies each item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ The undersigned counsel for applicant(s) hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☒ A copy of a Search Report from a corresponding foreign patent application (EP 05709660) is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$180 to cover the required fee is enclosed.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$180 to cover the required fee to Deposit Account No. 02-1818.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1818.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY

  
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Dated: April 4, 2007